

REMARKS

The objection to claims 6 and 21 and the indication that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, is acknowledged.

By the present amendment, claim 21 which was dependent upon independent claim 1 and dependent claim 3 have been canceled, and the features of objected to claim 21 have been incorporated into claim 1. It is noted that claim 3 has also been canceled and since claim 21 is more specific than the features of claim 3, the inclusion of claim 3 and 21 in claim 1 would result in redundant features. Thus, applicants submit that. Similarly, objected to claim 6 has been canceled and the features of objected to claim 6 have been incorporated into parent claim 5 while correcting a typographical error in claim 5. Thus, claim 5 should now be in condition for allowance.

Furthermore, by the present amendment, claim 8 which stands rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, has been amended to overcome the rejection thereof utilizing language similar to that suggested by the Examiner. Thus, claim 8, as amended, should now be considered to be in compliance with 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Additionally, claims 4, 7 and 22, which stand withdrawn from consideration as indicated by the Examiner, have been canceled without prejudice to the right to file a divisional application directed thereto.

Since only independent claims 1 and 5 corresponding respectively to objected to claims 21 and 6 written in independent form are present and these independent claims should now be in condition for allowance, applicants submit that claims 1 and

6 and the dependent claims thereof which remain in this application and are under consideration, should now be in condition for allowance.

As to the rejection of claims 1, 3, 5, 8 - 11, 13 - 14 and 19 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Sakurai, US Patent No. 6,476,882; the rejection of claim 12 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakurai, US Patent No. 6,476,882; and the rejection of claims 2, 15 - 18 and 20 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakurai, US Patent No. 6,476,882 in view of Kubo et al, US Patent No. 6,710,827; such rejections are considered to be obviated by the amendment of independent claims 1 and 5 to incorporate the features of objected to claims 21 and 6, respectively, therein, such that claims 1 and 5 and the dependent claims should now be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a discussion of the cited art is considered unnecessary.

Applicants note that also submitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement and consideration of the documents submitted are respectfully requested.

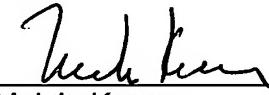
For the foregoing reasons, applicants submit that all claims present in this application should now be in condition for allowance and issuance of an action of a favorable nature is courteously solicited.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing

of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 501.42842X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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